

STAT

FLOOR STATEMENT

BY

SENATOR JOHN H. CHAFEE (R-R.I.)

ON THE

INTELLIGENCE IDENTITIES PROTECTION ACT OF 1981

AND THE TACTIC OF DEFEAT BY DELAY

MR. PRESIDENT. I rise today to mark an anniversary. One year ago -- September 30, 1980 -- I stood on this floor and urged my colleagues to act on the Intelligence Identities Portection Act of 1980 (S.2216). You may recall, Mr. President, that the purpose of this bill was to place criminal penalties on those who are in the business of identifying and exposing American intelligence officers and agents.

When I spoke one year ago, I said to my colleagues:

I find it ironic that those who oppose this legislation for constitutional reasons, feeling it impinges upon the rights of free speech or a free press, will not let us, the elected representatives of the people, at least debate the legislation on the floor and take a vote. Let us have a discussion in the free marketplace. Let us have the competition of ideas and arrive at a decision.

The distinguished Majority Leader, then Senator Byrd, who was on the floor one year ago responded that he "favor(ed) legislation in this field," and he hoped "the Senate could, in due time, take up the legislation."

The distinguished Minority Leader, then Senator Baker, was also very encouraging. He answered me saying: